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PALEONTOLOGY.

Fossil Cephalopods in the British Museum. — Lists of published material in museums are a valuable aid to investigators, and such lists are welcomed by museum men. The present list¹ comprises about nine hundred and fifty entries of types and figured specimens, presenting a graphic testimonial to the richness of the collections of cephalopods in the British Museum. The list is arranged alphabetically by genera; in the index the arrangement is alphabetical by species, so that any given form is readily found. This is an excellent system for such a list. Frequent critical notes give special information in regard to specimens or published figures. Specimens are listed under their names, as originally described in the publications cited. It would have been desirable in addition to have included in brackets, or otherwise, the current generic names where they differ.

A defect in the list is the fact that types are not indicated as such. A type is the specimen or specimens from which a new species or genus was described, and as such should be distinguished from other published material. "Orthocera" and "Orthoceras" are listed separately as if they were two genera. Both names are the same word, the difference being insufficient for generic distinction. By the system adopted, the same species in a genus become separated in an artificial way, as in the case of "*Orthocera politum*" and "*Orthoceras politum*." The species might have been listed under *Orthoceras*, indicating the original spelling where necessary. A few specimens are included, which, as the author says, have been erroneously referred to the Cephalopods, such as "*Helicoceras elegans* . . . a Gastropod." A recent *Nautilus pompilius* is also listed. In a catalogue of fossil Cephalopods, it would have been better to have put these associated forms at the end of the list, rather than in the body of the text.

R. T. J.

PETROGRAPHY AND MINERALOGY.

Basic Rocks in Italy. — Near Ivrea, a small town on the Dora Baltea in Italy, is a small area of basic eruptive rocks that have recently been studied by Van Horn.² The principal type is a norite.

¹ Crick, G. C. List of Types and Figured Specimens of Fossil Cephalopods in the British Museum (Natural History). London, 1898.

² *Min. u. Petrog. Mitth.*, Bd. xvii.